



**Advisory Announcement**  
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**2020 DEMERSAL SHELF ROCKFISH AND YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH FISHERIES  
ANNOUNCEMENT**

Sitka. . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) announced the following information concerning the commercial directed Demersal Shelf Rockfish (DSR) and personal use yelloweye rockfish (*Sebastes ruberrimus*) bottomfish fisheries in Southeast Alaska.

**The directed DSR commercial fisheries in the Southeast Outside Subdistrict (SEO), Northern Southeast Inside Subdistrict (NSEI), and Southern Southeast Inside Subdistrict (SSEI) will be closed for the 2020 season and will remain closed to directed DSR fishing until further notice.** The SEO area includes the East Yakutat (EYKT), Northern Southeast Outside (NSEO), Central Southeast Outside (CSEO), and Southern Southeast Outside (SSEO) Sections.

**The personal use bottomfish fishery in the Sitka and Ketchikan vicinities as defined per 5 AAC 77.674. (A) and (B) will be closed for nonretention of yelloweye rockfish for the 2020 season and will remain closed until further notice.** Personal use fishermen are encouraged to utilize rockfish deepwater release devices to decrease release mortality of yelloweye rockfish while bottomfish fishing for other species.

More information on rockfish conservation and deepwater release devices can be found on the ADF&G website at: <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishingSportFishingInfo.rockfishconservation>

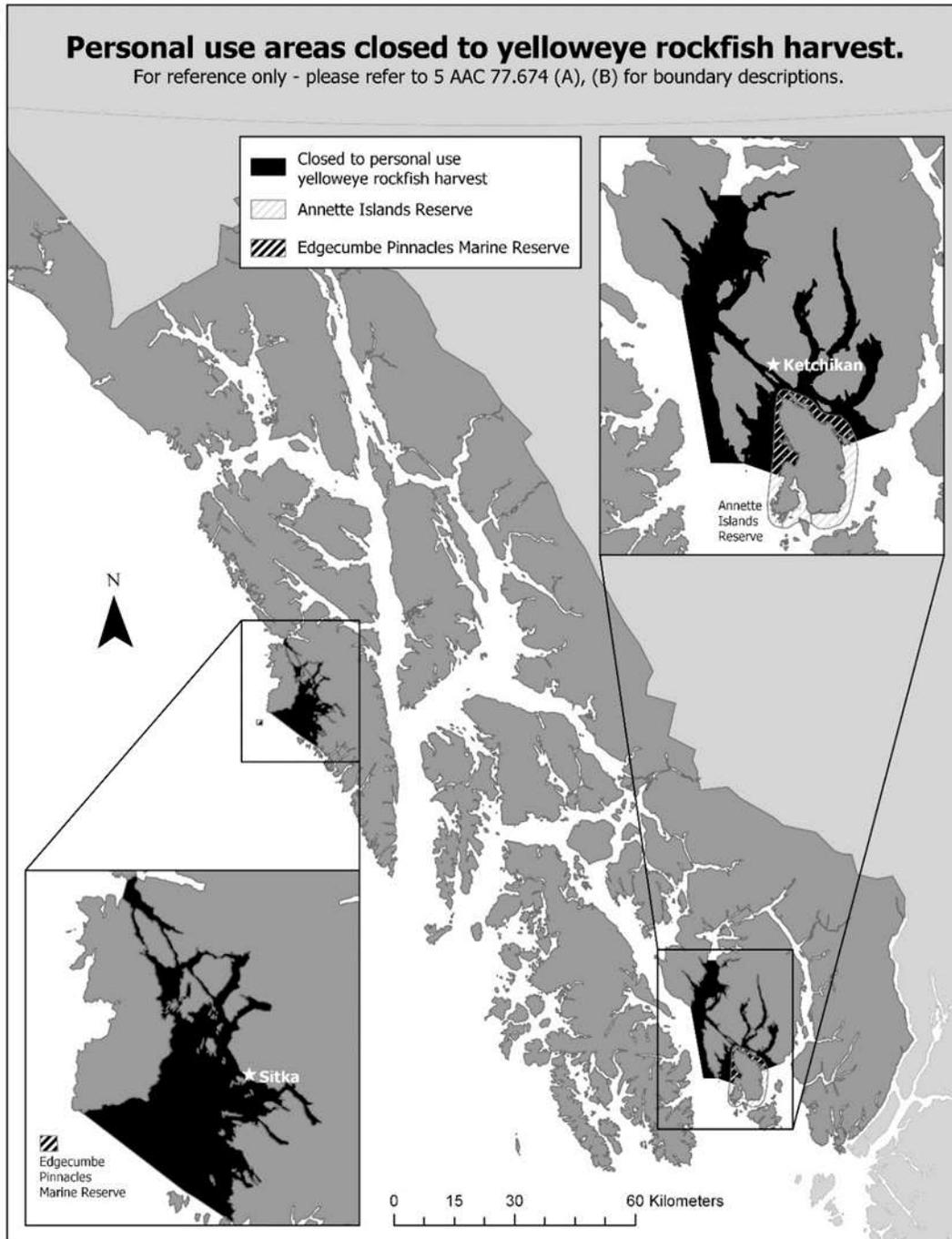
Biomass has declined approximately 60% since assessments began in 1994 for yelloweye rockfish in the Eastern Gulf of Alaska, despite conservative management over the last decade. In addition to the decline in biomass, annual trends in biological data (length, weight, and age by sex) reveal truncation of age classes, thus reducing reproductive potential and increasing uncertainty for future recruitment of juveniles. The yelloweye rockfish component comprises over 95% of the DSR commercial harvest and is the primary target compared to the six other DSR species (quillback, copper, rosethorn, canary, China, and tiger rockfish). DSR are particularly vulnerable to overexploitation and are slow to recover once fished below sustainable levels given their longevity, slow growth, late maturation, and high site-fidelity, with yelloweye rockfish reaching an estimated maximum age of 122 years and maturing at 18–22 years.

These concerns warrant further management action to allow for rebuilding of DSR stocks and to ensure sustainable rockfish fisheries in the future. Further restrictions in other fisheries will be considered to reduce DSR bycatch. Stock health will continue to be assessed annually through stock assessment surveys and biological sampling of yelloweye bycatch retained in commercial groundfish and halibut fisheries, as mandated under full-retention requirements (5 AAC 28.171).

**Annette Islands Reserve**

Fishermen are reminded the Annette Islands Reserve is a federally recognized Indian reservation in Alaska. The waters within 3,000 feet of Annette Island, Ham Island, Hemlock Island, Spire Island, Walker Island, Lewis Island, and adjacent rocks and islets are designated within the fishing reserve. Fisheries within the reserve are managed by the Metlakatla Indian Community for authorized fisheries participants.

Metlakatla residents are also reminded that waters beyond 3,000 feet of Annette Island, Ham Island, Hemlock Island, Spire Island, Walker Island, Lewis Island, and adjacent rocks and islets are managed by the State of Alaska. Proper licensing, permitting, and reporting are required.



**This map is for general reference only. For descriptions of management area boundaries, refer to 5 AAC 77.674.**

Advisory Announcement web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

Office	Ketchikan	Petersburg	Wrangell	Sitka	Juneau	Haines	Yakutat
ADF&G	225-5195	772-3801	874-3822	747-6688	465-4250	766-2830	784-3255
AWT	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000	766-2533	784-3255